

Hawaii MARINE

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Ultimate sacrifice

1/3 mourns brothers

Hawaii suffers greatest single-day loss since World War II

Press Release

MCB Hawaii

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — Thirty Marines and one Sailor from the 1st Marine Division and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing of the I Marine Expeditionary Force died early Wednesday morn-

ing when their CH-53E "Super Stallion" helicopter crashed near Ar Rutbah in the Al Anbar Province while conducting security and stabilization operations.

All Marines, Sailors, soldiers and airmen of the I Marine Expeditionary Force mourn the tragic loss of our brothers in arms.

"While we mourn the loss of these heroes, we will honor their sacrifice by continuing our mission to bring democracy to the people of Iraq," said Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force. "To the families of these brave men, our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to you at this most difficult of times."

See 1/3, A-7

New leave policy to promote safe travel

Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards

Combat Correspondent

Marines planning to take leave soon will notice their leave will start a little earlier and end a little later.

"The new leave policy was established a few months ago with Marine Administrative Message 492-04, signed November 8, 2004," said Gunnery Sgt. Livingston D. Hodges, administrative chief with Headquarters Battalion. "What it addresses is that they [Headquarters Marine Corps] wants commanders to have their Marines depart at 12:01 p.m. the day their leave starts and return at noon the day the leave expires."

Headquarters Marine Corps determined after years of compiling statistics that this should promote safer travel habits among Marines driving to their leave destination.

"The reason behind this, of course, is we're looking out for the safety of our Marines. They [Headquarters Marine Corps] want the Marines to depart the area during the daylight hours, especially if they are driving, which, nine times out of ten, they are," said Hodges. All the things I've read, the Marines are normally driving at night when they are in accidents, and a lot of the time they are returning from leave and liberty when these accidents occur.

"It [MarAdmin] also states that commanders should use this as guidance. I think it is good guidance, and not only for us being in Hawaii. As you know, a lot of our Marines depart at 4:30 p.m., and they end up having to take a late flight into wherever they end up. We'll use the East Coast for an example. The Marine gets home at 10 or 12 the next day; however, 10 to 12 hours have expired. If they can get an earlier flight they will get home sooner and will be able to have a little more time on leave."

Hodges isn't the only one in favor of the change in the leave policy.

"I think it's a good idea, especially on the mainland, to do it that way," said Sgt. Clinton C. Schwarz, Nuclear Biological Chemical Chief with Headquarters Battalion, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. "Under the old policy a lot of Marines would get excused from work at 4:30 p.m. or may be pushed back a little further because of the work day. Then they have to drive a couple hundred miles to get to wherever they are going on leave. A lot of Marines will try to cram all that driving into one night in order not to lose leave days with their friends and family. At least this way they can travel during the day and still get a little more time with family."

Although the impact safety, due to long drives, isn't as high here on the island, it does give Marines and Sailors a more flexible schedule when making leave plans.



Cpl. James L. Yarbrough

U.S. Marines conduct a mounted patrol in the cold and snowy weather of the Khowst-Gardez Pass in Afghanistan. Marines of the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, are conducting security and stabilization operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

3/3 thwarts off early attack

Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen

Combined Joint Task Force 76

KHOST PROVINCE, Afghanistan — A single gunshot shattered the early morning quiet Jan. 12. A few moments of silence followed, as heads spun to find out where the shot came from.

Then, a flurry of machinegun fire erupted from a nearby hill.

Within a matter of seconds, Marines from 3rd

Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment were returning fire on their attackers.

For about 20 minutes, the Marines and their unknown attackers exchanged fire just outside a village in northern Khost Province. In the pitch black of the early morning, the Marines had only the muzzle flashes of the attackers to fire at.

During the exchange, the attackers fired several rocket-propelled grenades, including one that hit about 10 feet from a HMMWV that just moments

before had three Marines sleeping on the ground around it.

The attackers fled before Cobra helicopters arrived on scene, leaving one Marine with a gunshot wound to his arm. He was evacuated to Forward Operating Base Salerno, where he was treated and released to his unit later in the day.

Lance Cpl. Ryan Lane believed there were

See 3/3, A-7

Lava Dogs to get relief soon

California-based Marines return to Iraq for third time

Lance Cpl. Paul Robbins Jr.

1st Marine Division

CAMP ABU GHURAYB, Iraq — The first Marine battalion into Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom, who tore down the statue of Saddam and spearheaded Operation Vigilant Resolve in Fallujah, has landed once again in familiar territory.

More than 700 Marines and Sailors from 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, have arrived to support operations in Iraq for a third time.

"We're the only [Marine infantry] battalion to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom three times,"

said Cpl. Benjamin B. Earhart, a 22-year-old Marine from Colorado Springs, Col., who serves as an intelligence clerk for 3/4.

This third deployment, coming only five months after the battalion returned from Iraq for a second time, demonstrates 3/4's renowned service.

The battalion has settled in around Fallujah, taking over areas of operation for 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, and 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

"Our mission here is to keep the city safe, continue stabilization and prevent [insurgents] from getting back in," said Lt. Col. Andrew R.

Kennedy, battalion commander.

"We're not expecting too many combat operations," Rogers said.

Despite the stresses of taking over the operations of multiple battalions and the ever-present threat of attack, 3/4 is confident in its ability to get the job done.

According to Kennedy, although practically none of the Marines are concerned about being back in Iraq, some Marines and their families do wonder about how long this one will be.

"My Marines will be here for seven months," Kennedy said, "I'm confident it will be just that."



Lance Cpl. Paul Robbins Jr.

Staff Sgt. Michael L. Hayes, assistant operations chief for 3/4, steps onto Kuwaiti soil. The Marines and Sailors of 3/4 are taking over for 1/3 in Iraq.

Bronze Star and others awarded

Compiled by Public Affairs Office

MCB Hawaii

During Friday's morning colors ceremony, a legal services officer assigned to K-Bay was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for his service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Maj. Thomas G. McCann, who served as detention operations officer, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, was cited for drafting the division detainee standing operating procedures, which became the definitive manual on

detention operations within the entire area of operations.

"Shortly after arriving in theater, and in the wake of what happened at Abu Ghraib, we realized this was going to be a tremendous issue. The Division leadership understood this and made it a key focus point early. I firmly believe this approach was instrumental in our success in this area," McCann admitted.

The Columbus, Miss. native spoke modestly about receiving such a tribute and gave credit to the Marine he served with.

"I was completely humbled and hon-

ored. To me, just serving with the 1st Marine Division in a combat zone was an honor," said McCann. "I cannot say enough about how well the Marines I worked with performed. We spent a lot of time traveling through hot spots in Ramadi and Falluja to complete our mission and often faced improvised explosive devices attacks and ambushes. In every instance, the Marines with my patrols reacted with tremendous poise and courage.

I was honored to serve with them —

See STAR, A-6



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Col. Richard C. Roten, deputy commander here pins a Bronze Star on Maj. Thomas G. McCann, legal services officer, who drafted the definitive manual on detention operations for the entire area of operations.

NEWS BRIEFS

State Alert to Sound Tuesday

The State Civil Defense monthly test of sirens and the Emergency Alert System will be sounded Tuesday at 11:45 a.m. The siren test is a steady 45-second tone used to alert the public of emergencies that pose or may pose a threat to life and property.

HI 5¢ Redemption Sites

Automated redemption machines will be stationed in the parking lot across from the Exchange Annex furniture/toy/garden store Tuesdays and Fridays, 12 to 5 p.m., beginning Tuesday.

A Camp Smith site will be set up in Lot 11 near the PMO building. The site will be open every other Wednesday, beginning Feb. 2 from 12 to 5 p.m.

Bring your aluminum cans, glass and plastic beverage containers with “HI 5” markings, empty and uncrushed, to load into the automated machines. Receive a voucher redeemable on the spot.

Trenching may cause Traffic Delays

Trenching excavation will be installing electrical conduits will be on the grassy area between the sidewalk, from 2512 Lawrence Rd. to the intersection of Manning Street and Lawrence Road. Traffic flow in this area will be affected during the execution of this work. Please allow for traffic delays. Traffic will be altered to one lane with traffic flag persons on both ends of the construction area from Feb 3 to April 30 during the hours of 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

GSA to Close Temporarily

The GSA Global Supply Store at Schofield Barracks will close for inventory Feb. 7 to 11. The GSA Global Supply Store at Hickam AFB will be open during this time to assist you.

Any questions can be directed to Mike Martin at 655-0280.

Pacific War Memorial Lecture Series to Feature James Webb

The semi-annual Pacific War Memorial Lecture Series will be held Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Marine Corps Base Hawaii Theatre. The speaker will be best-selling author and former Secretary of the Navy James Webb. The event is open to E-4 and above and their spouses.

Nimitz Road and BOQ Parking Lot Repaving Project

Nimitz Road and the BOQ parking lot will be repaved beginning Feb. 10. The project is scheduled to be completed by March 7; however, these dates are tentative and subject to change.

Information on start and completion times and dates, as well as alternate routes, will be published as they become available.

For questions or concerns regarding this project, contact Peggy Hunnings at 257-2171, ext.262.

Camp Smith Tech Expo

The Camp H.M. Smith Technology Expo will be held on Feb. 11 in the Pollock Theatre at MarForPac Headquarters Bldg. 1 (2nd Floor) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. All personnel are invited to attend with no charge.

Read the Hawaii Marine Online

To access the *Hawaii Marine* online, log on to www.mcbh.usmc.mil and click on the “Find out more in the *Hawaii Marine*” link. The current newspaper, as well as past issues, are available.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380

Hawaii MARINE

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Submit items for the *Hawaii Marine* to PAO no later than noon on the Friday prior to publication, using the following addresses:

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MCB HAWAII, KANEOHE BAY, HAWAII 96863
E-MAIL: EDITOR@HAWAIIAMARINE.COM
FAX: 257-1289, PHONE: 257-8836

In the CG’s Mailbox



TRAUTMAN

Dear Brigadier General Trautman,

My name is Carly Pendergraft, and I am currently medically retired from the Marine Corps. I reside off base in Kaneohe but utilize Marine Corps Base Hawaii quite often. I have recently been dealing with the MCCS Recreation Division, mainly the Youth Activities Office, since my daughter has been enrolled in ballet class this fall. I think the program is wonderful and it is great that these services are offered on base, but I have had several problems with the payment policies associated with the program.

Since I reside off base and work downtown five days a week, I cannot make it on base during their operational hours of 0730-1630. Therefore, my payments are usually late and assessed a late fee. I have called and visited the Youth Activities Office and offered to mail the checks, or to have someone drop off a check for me or to give them post dated checks to be deposited on the first of each month, and even offered to give the checks to the dance teacher. The teacher said she was told that under no circumstances could she touch a check for MCCS. I was told by the staff at the Youth Activities Office that none of these options were available.

I do not know what else to do in order to get my payments in on time, since I leave from and return to Kaneohe before and after their normal working hours. It just does not

The commanding general invites input from the base community via the “CG’s Mailbox” on the following topics:

- What are we doing that we shouldn’t be doing?
- What are we not doing that we should be doing?
- What are we doing that we should be doing better?

Responses should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include your name and return address.

E-mail your suggestions to the commanding general at CGMAIL@mcbh.usmc.mil.

If you don’t have an e-mail account, you can fax

your suggestions to 257-3290, or you can mail them to:

**Commanding General
(Attn: CG Mail)**
MCB Hawaii
Box 63002
MCB Kaneohe Bay, HI
96863-3002

Your suggestions can also be dropped off in person on base at the Adjutant’s office in Building 216, Room 1.

(Editor’s Note: Letters of any length may be edited in the interest of good taste and brevity.)

seem very accessible to anyone who does not reside on base or who does not work each day. I would suggest a payment drop box located at the Youth Activities Office or at the dance facility or for them to accept mailed checks. In speaking with other parents in the class, am not the only one who has problems getting payments to the office.

Thank you for your time, and I hope this input will enhance the accessibility of the Youth Activities Office and MCCS.

Semper Fidelis,
Carly Pendergraft, SSgt. USMC (Ret.)

Dear Staff Sgt. Pendergraft:

The commanding general asked me to respond to your letter because your concern falls within my staff responsibilities. He appreciates that you took the time to participate in the CG Mail program.

Thank you for your participation in our Youth Activities programs and for your positive comments about the MCCS services offered aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Let me assure you that we are committed to outstanding service and want to improve the quality of life for our families. Accordingly, we are pleased to inform you of two new payment options that will provide families added flexibility and help preclude late fees.

Author, former SecNav to speak

Courtesy of Webmaster

www.jameswebb.com

Former Secretary of the Navy and best-selling author James H. Webb Jr., is scheduled to speak with Marines and Sailors, E-4 and above, at the Base Theater, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. as part of the Pacific War Memorial Lecture Series.

For those who aren’t familiar, Webb came from a distinguished military family, with both sides of his family having a strong citizen-soldier military tradition.

Webb’s father was a career Air Force officer who flew B-17s and B-29s during World War Two, cargo planes during the Berlin Airlift, and was a pioneer in the United

States missile program. Col. Webb was the first member of his family to finish high school and graduate from college. He graduated from the University of Omaha in 1962 after 26 years of night school, put the first Atlas missile into place for the Air Force in the late 1950’s and held an unsurpassed success-rate record as commander of an Atlas, Thor, and Scout Junior missile squadron during the early 1960’s.

During the Vietnam war he served at Air Force Systems command on sensitive satellite link programs and as a legislative affairs officer in the Pentagon. This job lead him to become a vocal critic of Defense Secretary McNamara’s leadership methods and causing him, eventually, to retire from the Air Force, partially in protest of the manner in which the Vietnam War was

being micromanaged by the political process.

James Webb grew up on the move, attending more than a dozen different schools across the U.S. and in England. He graduated from high school in Bellevue, Neb. First attending the University of Southern California on an NROTC academic scholarship, he left for the Naval Academy after one year. At the Naval Academy he was a four-year member of the Brigade Honor Committee, a varsity boxer, and was one of six finalists in the interviewing process for Brigade Commander during his senior year.

Graduating in 1968, he chose a commission in the Marine Corps, and was one of 18 in his class of 841 to receive the Superintendent’s Commendation for out-

See WEBB, A-4



Gunnery Sgt. Keith A. Mills
James Webb (second from left), a writer, decorated Vietnam veteran and former SecNav chats with Jon Mohammed, governor of Afghanistan’s Oruzgan province. Webb will be speaking with Marines here Feb. 8 for the PWMLS.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Corps lingo raises questions

As a 2nd generation Marine (1963–1969), and the father of a 3rd generation Marine L/CPL deployed with 3/3, I read with disappointment, the article entitled “3/3 Devil Dogs re-up in desert”. I have been associated with our Corps for over 60 years and have never heard Marine reenlistment referred to as re-up! Soldiers and Airmen re-up. Marines and Sailors ship over or simply re-enlist. It is bad enough when the civilian news media mistakenly refer to all deployed ground forces as ‘soldiers’

and fail to differentiate Marines from their Army counterparts. But when one of the Marine Corps’ own media outlets doesn’t recognize the value in the retention and use of the “Old Corps” traditions and Gyrene Lingo, it makes this Marine Veteran wonder how and if our NCO’s, Staff NCO’s and Officer Corps are instilling in young Marines the time honored traditions that mark the Marine Corps apart from the other branches of the armed forces.

W.R. Orth Jr.
Former Sergeant

DUIs are career killers

(Editor’s Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those arrested for driving under the influence [DUI], driving while intoxicated or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the Hawaii Marine newspaper.)

•Jan. 22, Sgt. Jeremy Link of 3rd Radio Battalion. Driving under the influence, with a blood alcohol content of .06 percent.
•Jan. 22, retired U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. John C. Arruda, Jr.

DUI with a BAC of .16 percent.
•Jan. 22, Lt. j.g. Nicholas P. Whitney of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37. DUI with a BAC of .08 percent.
•Jan. 23, a Kaneohe civilian. DUI with a BAC of .08 percent.

GEAR LIST



Flak Vest With SAPI plates

New vest, plates save lives

Lance Cpl. Sha'ahn Williams

MCB Quantico

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va — With the face of war constantly changing, the Marine Corps continues to adapt in order to properly equip and protect its Marines.

One of the latest innovations is an improved outer Tactical Vest with Small Arms Protective Inserts, which will soon replace the old Personnel Armor System Ground Troop Flak Vest.

“Alone, the OTV defeats fragmentation and 9mm rounds — something the flak vest doesn't do,” said Maj. Wendell B. Leimbach Jr., combat equipment infantry combat

equipment team leader.

Used with Small Arms Protective Inserts, it provides protection from 7.62mm and 5.56mm rounds.

“While the OTV will stop fragmentation and 9mm rounds, the SAPI plate is required to spread out the energy of the bullet's impact; therefore, they must be worn as a set,” explained Leimbach.

“The most noticeable differences between the old and new vests are the molle weaving used to hang things on the front of the OTV, and the pockets in the front and back of the vest to insert SAPI plates,” said Gregory L. Hauck, contract support leader for the

equipment team.

“The SAPI plates that go inside the vest are plates made from a ballistic ceramic tile backed by multiple layers of unidirectional ballistic material,” said Leimbach. “The ceramic tile breaks up the bullet and the fabric catches the fragments.”

The SAPI plates defeat multiple hits of M80 rounds.

“This vest protects Marines from rounds fired as close as point-blank range,” Leimbach said. “It'll hurt like hell, but you'll live!”

“These vests have made a tremendous change in war history as far as the casualty rates are concerned,” said Hauck.

“For every casualty, there are eight wounded. That is the lowest wartime death rate in history,” he

said. “And it is directly attributed to the new armor and fast medical attention.”



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Navy Seaman Jonathon Seaux, a hospital corpsman with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, displays the SAPI plate from his body armor with a hole from which he had extracted a round following a fire-fight Dec. 23 in Afghanistan.



Kristin Herrick

Made from ballistic ceramic tile, Small Arms Protective Inserts add extra weight to the flak vest, but because it can stop rounds from point-blank range, most Marines don't mind the extra pounds.



Kristin Herrick



Kristin Herrick

Above and left — New flak vests have strong Velcro closures and adjustable straps so the jackets fit well and stay in place.



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Left and above — Lance Cpl. James H. Delecki (left), air traffic control maintenance, Marine Corps Air Facility and Lance Cpl. Luis Chacon, rigger, 3rd Radio Battalion model both new and old gear including flak vests and helmets.



Lightweight Helmet

Lightweight helmet provides better protection, comfort

Lance Cpl. Sha'ahn Williams

MCB Quantico

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va — When it comes to war, comfort is probably one of the last words that come to mind. But Marine Corps Systems Command took comfort into consideration when the new lightweight helmet was designed to replace the older Personnel Armor System Ground Troop helmet, commonly referred to as “Kevlar.”

“The new helmet is lightweight and more comfortable,” said Maj. Wendell B. Leimbach Jr., combat equipment infantry combat equipment team leader.

“We've sent cards to the Marines currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan to get their opinions about the LWH, and the responses are positive,” Leimbach said.

The Marines like the lighter weight and the improved suspension system inside the LWH, which was designed to reduce stress

and fatigue.

“The older PASGT helmets are good, but the LWH is better,” said Gregory L. Hauck, contract support leader for the equipment team.

The LWH is currently being distributed to the field as fast as they can be produced, so every Marine in Iraq and Afghanistan will have one as soon as possible, Hauck added.

The LWH has improved ballistic protection capability over the PASGT helmet and is one-half pound lighter.

“These LWH helmets provide the best level of protection and the most comfort with the least amount of weight,” Leimbach said.

According to Leimbach, it will improve combat effectiveness through greater comfort and fit. “The old helmets slipped down over everyone's eyes, but you don't have to worry about that as much with these.”

Distribution of the LWH began last year. Approximately 45,000 of them have been fielded, said Leimbach. Given current production capacity, it will take about two and a half years to finish fielding



Kristin Herrick

New lightweight helmets provide better protection and comfort than ever before.

the LWH, he added, but MARSYSCOM is working to speed that up.

The cost to field the new helmet is \$17.6 million, but the need to replace the old helmet was necessary because it was outdated. The old helmet was developed in the 1970s and distributed in the 1980s, said Hauck.

Both Hauck and Leimbach agree that it was time for an update.

Hauck said of the LWH, “This is millennium equipment.”



Kristin Herrick

New cammies offer females a better fit

Shakinta M. Johnston
Marine Corps Systems Command

MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND, Quantico, Va — Female Marines will now have the option to procure specific female-sized combat utility uniforms designed to improve fit and function for them if they are dissatisfied with the fit of the current uniform. Beginning the week of Jan. 24, all clothing sales stores began stocking six new cammie blouse and seven new trouser sizes that specifically accommodate most female Marines in areas where fit and function issues are most frequently found.

The new female-sized cammies should be found in the clothing sales stores where other female clothing items are located, space permitting. Female Marines who are satisfied with the fit of their cammies have nothing to fear. The cammies have additional sizes and will not change the availability or design of current unisex sizes.

Fit and wear testing by female Marines found the new cammie sizing eliminates the common fit problems outlined in the illustration. Female cammie benefits are achieved by adjusting the garments to female proportions that basically remove extra material where it is not needed and adding it where needed.

Gunnery Sgt. Angelique Downs, Quantico, Va., appreciates the impact that sizing adjustments have on uniform performance.

“The changes in sizes and eliminating the excess material seemed to result in more effective field, PT and everyday work performance,” said Downs. “There was no getting ‘around’ the extra fabric in the crotch and back. The focus was on the job performance and not simply dealing with bulky excess.”

Downs is not the only Marine who welcomed improvements brought by the female cammies. Cpl Mary Simmons, Quantico, Va., was one of several female Marines who participated in a fit/wear test. Before trying the female cammies, Simmons found her unisex cammies were “too large for her” and sizing was very difficult. With the old female cammies, she reported utilities that made her “look like a Marine and not a kid playing dress up.”

“I would definitely buy a set of female-sized cammies if made available,” said Simmons. “They are great!”

Simmons is one of 90 percent of the test females who preferred the improved comfort, ease of movement, and more professional appearance afforded by the female-sized cammies while providing identical uniform features. To avoid confusion between the female-sized cammies and the current unisex sizes, females will need to get used to the new size designation.

Female vs. Unisex Sizing

Different size labeling was adopted for the female cammies and will

always begin with a number followed by length abbreviation. New sizes for female cammie blouses are 32 XS, 32 S, 35 XS, 35 S, 35 R and 39 S. New sizes for female cammie trousers are 24 XS, 24 S, 28 XS, 28 S, 28 R, 32 XS and 32 S.


In the new female uniform sizing, the number replaces the current

xsmall, small and medium size label where the number represents the mid-point of the range of body measurements that the garment size will fit for chest or waist circumference. The letter that follows the number is the same length designation of xshort, short and regular found in the current sizing.

To help female Marines get started with identifying the new size female item, a uniform size conversion table was developed to provide guidance.

The old adage of “If the shoe fits ...” applies perfectly here. Female Marines must try the cammies on to determine the best fitting new size alternative and then choose their preference for the new female size garments or stay with the current size in whole or part. It is okay to mix and match garment sizes. During

Female Size Cammies Fit Fixes



Female Sizes Fix Fit Problems:

- Unprofessional appearance
- Frequent uniform readjustment
- Bunching under combat gear
- Bagginess in upper back
- Impair ease of movement
- Big waist to fit hips
- Long crotch
- "V" separation at blouse bottom
- Overweight misperception



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
New female-sized cammies should eliminate extra material and create a better fit.

testing, the best fit for some females consisted of a mix of female size and current size among the two cammie garments, such as female-sized blouse and current unisex trouser or vice versa. The purpose of the new cammie sizes is to achieve better fit for improved comfort and ease of movement for females that is comparable to the fit males experience with the current cammies.

Female-sized cammies aren't the only impending improvements. Female sized boots will be added in the spring. Approximately 28 sizes, from 4 to 11, are being added in the Hot Weather, Infantry Combat and Steel Toe boots. More information about female boots will be reported as availability of items at store approaches.

If you have questions on the

female-sized items, e-mail cammie inquiries to Deirdre.Townes@us.army.mil. E-mail female boot inquiries to marlee.foster@usmc.mil.

After years of having to fit into men's clothing, female Marines are finally being given the opportunity to be issued and buy combat uniforms and footwear that better accommodate female proportions. This issue is not new but an implementation of successful development that was initiated after the September 2002 female uniform symposium, which directed improved fit of critical items for female Marines to be fit to fight.

Editor's Note: To pre-order the appropriate size female cammies, contact Carolyn Meek at 254-7691. Pre-ordering will ensure the size needed will be in stock. Due to possible high-volume sales, turnaround could take two weeks.

New Female Cammie-Size Conversion Guide			
Blouse		Trousers	
Old ←→ New		Old ←→ New	
XS-XS	== 32 XS	XS-XS	== 24 XS
XS-S	== 32 S	XS-S	== 24 S
XS-R	== Not offered	XS-R	== Not offered
S-XS	== 35 XS	S-XS	== 28 XS
S-S	== 35 S	S-S	== 28 S
S-R	== 35 R	S-R	== 28 R
M-XS	== Not offered	M-XS	== 32 XS
M-S	== 38 S	M-S	== 32 S

WEBB, From A-2

standing leadership contributions while a midshipman. First in his class of 243 at the Marine Corps Officer's Basic School in Quantico, Va., he then served with the 5th Marine Regiment in Vietnam, where as a rifle platoon and company commander in the infamous An Hoa Basin west of Da Nang. He was awarded the Navy Cross, the Silver Star Medal, two Bronze Star Medals, and two Purple Hearts. He later served as a platoon commander and as an instructor in tactics and weapons at Marine Corps Officer Candidates School, and then as a member of the Secretary of the

Navy's immediate staff, before leaving the Marine Corps in 1972.

Webb spent the "Watergate years" as a student at the Georgetown University Law Center, arriving just after the Watergate break-in in 1972, and receiving his Jurisprudence Doctorate just after the fall of South Vietnam in 1975. While at Georgetown he began a six-year pro bono representation of a Marine who had been convicted of war crimes in Vietnam, finally clearing the man's name in 1978, three years after his suicide, won the Horan Award for excellence in legal writing; and authored his first book, Micronesia and U.S. Pacific Strategy. He also worked in Asia as a consultant to the

Governor of Guam, conducting a study of U.S. military land needs in Asia and their impact on Guam's political future.

According to his biography, Webb has written six best-selling novels: “Fields of Fire,” 1978, considered by many to be the classic novel of the Vietnam War, “A Sense of Honor,” 1981, “A Country Such As This,” 1983, “Something To Die For,” 1991, The Emperor's General 1999 and “Lost Soldiers,” 2001.

He taught literature at the Naval Academy as their first visiting writer, has traveled worldwide as a journalist, and his PBS coverage of the U.S. Marines in Beirut earned him an Emmy Award from the National

Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Mr. Webb travels extensively, particularly in Asia, as a journalist, business consultant and screenwriter-producer. He speaks Vietnamese and has done extensive pro bono work with the Vietnamese community dating from the late 1970's. In 1989 he met with key Japanese government and industrial officials as a featured guest of the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

He has also worked on feature film projects with many of Hollywood's top producers. Rules of Engagement, which he also executively-produced in April 2000, starred Tommy Lee Jones and Samuel L. Jackson. It was

the number one film in the U.S. for two weeks. His fifth novel, “The Emperor's General,” was purchased by Paramount pictures as the largest book-to-film deal of 1998.

His seventh and most recent book, “Born Fighting,” is his first commercial non-fiction effort, and was published in October by Broadway Books.

An undeniably prominent figure in recent political and literary history, Webb is volunteering his valuable time to speak with the Marines and Sailors of MCB Hawaii. Attendance is highly encouraged to those eligible.

Editor's Note: Information from this article was gathered from www.jameswebb.com.

Marine Corps now prohibits use of ‘Andro’

Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards
Combat Correspondent

The president, congress and Marine Corps deemed certain over-the-counter supplements to be steroids, with the change of the Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2004.

Marine Administrative Message 11/05 states, “The purpose of this message is to inform all of an amendment to the Anabolic Steroid Control At of 1990. The new Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2004. Amends the definition of “Anabolic Steroid” to include Tetrahydrogestrinone (THG). Androstenedione, and related chemicals used to promote muscle growth, specifically, Androstenedione or any “Andro” containing substance, a steroid, will now be listed as a schedule 3 controlled substance.”

As a result of this new message, a few changes have already been made.

“Since the new message came out I have been contacting all the units substance abuse control officers to ensure they got the same word,” said MCB Hawaii Drug Demand Reduction Coordinator Quentin Redmon. “I also wanted to ensure that ... all the body builders and weight lifters who may have been using products with these items in it know they need to discontinue use immediately.”

Redmon also said that in his passing the word about the new message, he received some startling news.

“I spoke with our associates at the nutrition store here on base and they informed me that they no longer had any items that contained these substances available for purchase. However, they did say that

many people stockpiled a large quantity of items such as IAD — which contains what is not considered an illicit substance,” said Redmon. “I would like to inform them that the use of those products became illegal from the publishing of that message. The message states article 112A, UCMJ, makes wrongful use, possession, manufacture, distribution, import, or introduction on an installation, vessel, vehicle or aircraft used by or under the control of the armed forces of all drugs on schedules 1-5 is illegal. This prohibition is effective 22 January 2005.”

Redmon said this basically means that if you are still in possession of items containing these substances, it is illegal. You should discard these items. If you are using them, stop. If you test positive on a urinalysis for any of these substances, you will be dealt with the same as if you test positive for any other illegal drug.



Cpl. Francis Shanks, aviation ordnance systems technician, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31, works out at the Air Station gym. Shanks has never used muscle growth hormones but believes it is a common trend in the military.

Aloha state military families win big with new housing allowances

Cpl. Jeremy M. Vought
U.S. Marine Forces Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Some Marines are known for their humor, but when Sgt. Rafael Ortega was told by a co-worker that his basic allowance for housing was going up 20 percent, he wasn’t buying the “joke.”

“I told him to shut up,” the military police patrol supervisor at Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe Bay said. “I just didn’t believe him.”

That was until Ortega walked into the Marine Corps Exchange and saw the cover of the Dec. 27 edition of Marine Corps Times. There it was, in big, bold letters, “2005 BAH RATES.” It didn’t take long for him to rush to the register, fork out some green, rip off the plastic wrap and turn to page eight to see, as the cover stated, “How much will you get?”

As he read through the story, what he quickly found was his fellow Marine wasn’t joking.

The national average for service members’ basic allowance for housing is up 8 percent from last year. But what really got Ortega’s attention was that service mem-

bers’ BAH in Hawaii would increase 20.9 percent in 2005 — the nation’s biggest jump.

This increase was needed since Hawaii rental prices were up 23 percent from the previous year, according to an August 2004 story in the Honolulu Star Bulletin.

This news struck a great chord with Ortega and his family. Ortega and his wife, Sgt. Jeskah Y. Ortega, the supply administration chief at Marine Forces Pacific, just had their second child, Bianka, only three months ago. Their first child, Kaileb, is now 2.

They live in the Private Public Venture 802 housing on MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. PPV is comparable to Hawaii’s civilian rentals, residents have contracts and leases just like off-base.

This year’s rates for 802 housing actually went down as the BAH was increasing and the rates are locked until Dec. 31.

Jeskah said the extra money is really going to help a lot.

“Especially with the new child and finding out that it’s going to cost us more than one thousand dollars a month for daycare,” the 26-year-old from Orange County, Calif., said.

According to a December Pentagon press release, this is the first time a service member’s housing allowance will cover the average cost of rent, utilities, and renter’s insurance for a specific area.

“Every little bit helps,” Rafael said.

The Ortegas, like so many other service members, have always had a dream of one day owning their own home. The couple is now planning to buy their first home.

The twist in this story is that the Ortega’s are closing on their home in California, not Hawaii, because they are transferring to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Camp Pendleton’s BAH rate went up about 2 percent from last year and is still quite a bit lower than Hawaii’s.

“Well, I guess we’ve got six months to save up that Hawaii BAH before we leave,” Jeskah sighed.

“Before this raise, things were going to be tight,” Rafael said. “We were trading in our cars and cutting a lot out of our budget to make it work,” the 28-year-old from Los Angeles said.

Both are career Marines with seven-and-a-half years in the Corps and are looking forward to a bright future in their home and, of course, for their family.



Sgts. Jeskah and Rafael Ortega spend some family time at their K-Bay home. The 2005 BAH is going up 20 percent for all service members in Hawaii.

National Defense beefs up

Marine Corps to increase manpower by 3,000

Cpl. Susan Smith
MCB Quantico

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — The Marine Corps is expanding its end strength by 3,000 Marines.

The increase from 175,000 Marines to 178,000 Marines is directed in accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act Fiscal Year 2005, passed Oct. 8, 2004. “The committee believes that an increase in manpower is essential to the Marine Corps’ ability to provide and sustain the force levels required of it by our national security strategy,” reads the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services NDAA press release.

“The 3,000 Marines will be phased in over the next three years — roughly one third each year,” said Lt. Col. Tim Corley, head of the Future Operations Branch, Manpower Plans and Policy.

“Increasing the end strength by 3,000 will better position the Marine Corps to fight the global war on terror and decrease the amount of stress on the force,” said Corley.

The Marine Corps is currently comprised of 24 infantry battalions; however, they are not

staffed to 100 percent. Prior to deployment, infantry battalions must receive augments from other units to bring manning up.

“Approximately 2,000 of the 3,000 Marine increase will go toward bringing our 24 infantry battalions up to 100 percent of their wartime requirement,” explained Frank Donahoe, deputy director of the Total Force Structure division at MCCDC. “The boost in infantry battalion manning will reduce the requirement for augments, build greater unit cohesion and improve training readiness.”

The majority of the increase in Marines will come from accessions; therefore, Marine Corps Recruiting Command will receive 425 to help recruit more Marines. Marine Corps Recruiting Command will receive 425 allocations — 278 next fiscal year, and the rest will be phased in from there. Foreign military training units will be formed to help train foreign militaries throughout the world to help our allies and friends train and establish a professional military.

“Each [Marine Expeditionary Force] will get 135 Marines to establish foreign military training units consisting primarily of infantry Marines,” Donahoe said. “I MEF training units are scheduled to be fully operational in 2006, then II MEF in 2007 and III MEF in FY 2008.”

Training and Education Command will get 120 new positions — 60 Marines for various school instructors seats and 60 Marines for

Security and Stability Operations training at March Air Force Base in California.

Due to emerging requirements, an additional 45 Marines will be assigned to operating force units for CH-53 Delta support requirements.

Also, an additional 20 Marines will fill Combat Service Support Element operating force units for contingency contracting billet requirements. “These are the Marines who write contracts for the units out there, in Iraq or Afghanistan, if they need to get support from the local economy,” said Corley.

“The cost for the increase will be paid out of supplemental funding. We are requesting 159 million in the FY 2005 supplemental,” Corley explained. “The manpower costs beyond FY 2005 have not yet been exacted; however, they are expected to be slightly higher.”

A decision has yet to be made as to whether



Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint

More civilians will soon enlist, as the Marine Corps is slated to add 3,000 to its end strength by fiscal year 2008, in accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act Fiscal Year 2005, passed Oct. 8, 2004.

additional increases will be made. The NDAA FY 2005 directed the Corps to increase by 3,000, but left the decision to the Marine Corps for any further increases up to a limit of 9,000.

Corley said, “We will continue to look at the emerging requirements and make decisions regarding any more increases based on those requirements.”

STAR, From A-1

they are the next chapter of the "greatest generation."

Base Deputy Commander, Col. Richard C. Roten, in the base commander’s stead, also awarded three Certificates of Commendation to a Marine and two Sailors for their support during the 2004 “Blues on the Bay” Air Show. The awardees, Military Police Training Chief Gunnery Sgt. Bowie Cruz, who served as the Military Police logistical support supervisor, Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (equipment) Chief Petty Officer Martin J. Bufka,



who served as the air show pit boss, and Air Traffic Controller Petty Officer 2nd Class Kaili D. Brunda, who served as the hospitality petty officer, were all present at the ceremony to receive awards.

The winners of 2004’s Commander’s Cup and the 101 Days of Summer programs were also announced at the ceremony. The winner of the Commanding General’s Intramural Sports Cup was announced as Command Patrol Reconnaissance Wing 2, the winner of the Commanding General’s Semper Fit Series was announced as Headquarters Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, and the overall 2004

Commander’s Cup winner was announced as 3rd Marine Regiment.

The top placing units in the 101 Days of Summer campaign were awarded monetary awards for their unit party funds. Awarded \$1,000 for placing first was Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 with 5,329 points. Headquarters Battalion was awarded \$750 for placing second with 4,369 points. Awarded \$500 for placing third, was Combat Service Support Group 3, with 3,904 points.

After, a final award was presented to Melinda J. Ortega in recognition of 30 years of federal service, the ceremony closed with the playing of Anchors Aweigh and the Marines Hymn by the Fleet Marine Forces Pacific Band.

Getting it Straight



In the Jan. 7 edition, the *Hawaii Marine* misreported on page A-4 the names of the members of the Order of St. Barbara.

Capt. Gregory G. Seaman, Alpha Battery commander; Capt. Thomas W. Parker, Bravo Battery commander; and Chief Warrant Officer Gary Schmidt, survey and meteorological officer, all received pewter medallions to honor their service and dedication. Four spouses were also inducted into the Order of Molly Pitcher: Tonya Cordero, Jenine Kesterson, Debbie Trenker and Stephanie Bowman, all members of the Key Volunteer Network.



Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards

Lance Cpl. Jose GonzalezGonzalez, an administration clerk with Headquarters Battalion, makes entries into the computer while tending the front desk at IPAC.

3/3, From A-1

between 15 and 20 attackers. An infantryman in Weapons Company, Lane was manning a watch point on the hilltop closest to where the attack came from.

“I tried to count how many flashes there were, but there was so many I couldn’t keep track of them,” Lane said. “One would pop up, then another one, then a whole line would just light up. After that, my whole squad just started unloading on them.”

The Marines had arrived at the location just before sunset the evening before. It was the first night of a scheduled four-day, three-night mission.

Lane, who turned 21 years old on Jan. 12, said he was asleep when at about 3 a.m. his squad leader jumped on top of him. He awoke hearing rounds impacting around where he was sleeping.

At one point during the fire-fight, two of the attackers moved closer to the Marines’ position and each fired an RPG, Lane said. One hit the hill below the Marines’ position, sending debris flying, and the other RPG whizzed overhead.

“That’s when we popped [a flare], and we could see everyone

up there. You could see every person that was up on top of that hill. At one point, they were so close that we could see their faces and their little hats that they wear.”

It remains unclear as to who the attackers actually were, but Lane believed it was a well coordinated attack by Anti-Coalition Militants. He said the Marines on fire watch could hear them setting into their positions.

“The way they had a heavy machine gun set in, this was planned out,” Lane said. “They were either waiting for us or some other Coalition forces to come in here. They knew what they were doing.”

Almost as soon as the sun started to come up, locals from the village started approaching the Marines with information. The Marines spent the majority of the next three days acting on this information in an effort to find the attackers.

While conducting searches throughout the village, they found several weapons.

The Marines were able to accomplish all of the mission’s original goals, said Capt. K.C. Barr, commander of Weapons Company. That included setting up a mullah conference, evaluating a well construction project

in the village, conducting patrols with the Afghan National Police, and following up on some old intelligence leads.

Barr said because of the attack, he could have searched any home he wanted to in the village. Instead, he chose to talk it out with village elders and allow them time to solve the problem.

During his dealings with locals following the attack, Barr, a native of Upper Darby, Pa., said he was able to talk from a more emotional level.

“I think we shifted [the villagers’ trust] in our direction,” Barr admitted.

On the last day of the mission, villagers handed the Marines several weapons, including RPG launchers Barr believes were used in the attack.

Additionally, Barr said the experience was beneficial for the Marines because it served as a “wake-up call” for the Marines, who arrived in Afghanistan three months ago.

“Undoubtedly, this flipped on a whole bunch of light bulbs, and reminded Marines they can never let their guard down in this environment.”

The Marines returned to FOB Salerno the night of Jan. 14 without further incident.

Service Battalion, 3rd Radio Battalion, Headquarters Battalion and Marine Corps Air Facility effective as of February 22, 2005.”

According to Montalvo the Installation Personnel Administration Center will be broken down into four major functional areas.

“The inbound branch, which will be located in on the second deck of Building 1033 will handle anything with personnel incoming to Hawaii i.e. new joins, permanent change of assignments, and they will also work hand-and-hand with disbursing to settle travel settlements upon reporting to MCB Hawaii,” said Montalvo. “We will also take care of any Marine being serviced by Marine Forces Pacific including their two external MSCs i.e. Marines from Australia and Thailand.”

“The Outbound branch is another functional area located on the first

deck of Building 1043. They will handle retirement, permanent change of station and separating from Hawaii, basically anything to do with processing out of Hawaii.”

“Customer Service located in Building 401 deals with anything form the time you report here to processing out. They deal with promotions, pro and cons, pay, non recommendations for legal, and marriage packages.”

“The last functional area is the deployed branch also located on the second deck of Building 1033. They take care of all our Marines that are on Temporary Assigned Duty, forward deployed under the Unit Deployment Program and Individual Augment billets. They will take care of anything that happens while they are deployed.”

Montalvo went on to explain the

1/3, From A-1

Department of Defense officials confirmed today that 26 Marines and a Navy Corpsman killed in the CH-53E crash in western Iraq were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

The unit left Hawaii in August for a routine deployment to Okinawa to serve as

the ground combat element (Battalion Landing Team) with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). The 31st MEU deployed from Okinawa to Iraq in September.

Prior to this incident, the unit has lost a total 17 Marines and one Sailor in Iraq.

Identification of these Marines and Sailor will be made once DoD makes that information public.

Foreign military visit



Pfc. Stephen Kwietniak

Phillippines Armed Forces sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Mario Gabriel, poses with members of the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy and Headquarters Battalion aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, including Sgt. Maj. Anthony E. Franks, base sergeant major.